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**Benefits to NOK of battle casualty      Benefits to the injured personnel**

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(iii) Rs. 2 lakhs for needy parents who were dependent on the deceased soldiers. The amount has been kept as fixed deposit and dependent parents of the deceased soldiers are to be paid monthly interest accruing on it.

**(VII) Assistance from Army Central Welfare Funds:**

Ex-Gratia grant of Rs. 50,000/- to each living NOK of all battle casualty during the period from 15.8.1947 to 30.4.1999. Further, it has been decided that Rs. 50,000/-, in addition, in each case to be paid from NDF.

Ex-gratia grant of Rs. 30,000/- to each living NOK of all battle casualty w.e.f. 1.5.1999.

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**Non-Payment of contributions made by the Urban Bank**

†2500. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps towards the news item published under the title "arbon bankene kelela Kargil nidhi dilach nahin" in the 'Tarun Bharat'; and

(b) the action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) In regard to the news item published in

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

[17 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Tarun Bharat, the Government of Maharashtra have informed that the Board of Directors of the Nagar Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Ahmednagar had recommended that 15 percent dividend be utilised for giving donation to Kargil Fund and to the Anand Rishiji Hospital. But in the Annual General meeting of the Bank, some of the members had objected to this recommendation and demanded their share of dividend. Therefore, the bank approached the Commissioner of Co-operation and Registrar of Co-operative Societies Maharashtra State, Pune and asked for appropriate guidance, who rejected the above proposal of the bank and ordered that the dividend should be paid to members immediately. However, the Board of Directors and employees of Nagar Urban Co-operative Bank have subsequently, donated Rs. 83,251/- to the Army Central Welfare Fund.

#### **Purchase of AJTs**

2501. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh problems have cropped up in the Advanced Jet Trainer Aircraft deal for the Air Force, pending since long;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) by when the purchase of AJTs is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Negotiations have commenced with M/s British Aerospace for the Hawk AJT. The contract will be signed after the negotiations are successfully completed.